

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH BULGARIA

REF: SOFIA 960

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS FOR STIMULATING CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH BULGARIA. IN VIEW OF SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE EVIDENCED RECENTLY BY GOB, HOPEFULLY THESE SUGGESTIONS SHOULD ACHIEVE DESIRED RESULT. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT US CULTURAL EVENT COULD BE MOST USEFUL AND WILLING ASSIST POST IN THIS PROJECT.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, SEE NO OBJECTION TO EMBASSY INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL SHOWING OF US FILM(S), ALTHOUGH PERMISSION AND RIGHTS FOR SPECIFIC FILMS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH MPAA BEFORE SHOWING COULD TAKE PLACE. FYI: PACIFIC FILM INSTITUTE CONFIRMS BULGARIAN FILM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD LATE SEPTEMBER, EARLY OCTOBER AND THAT SMALL DELEGATION BULGARIAN FILM PERSONALITIES EXPECTED ATTEND. UNDERSTAND AFI ALSO ORGANIZING SHOWINGS OF BULGARIAN FILMS FOR LATER THIS YEAR. END FYI.

3. WITH REGARD TO RECIPROCITY, DEPARTMENT WOULD PREFER
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VOIDING "NUMBERS GAME" WITH BULGARIA BY INSISTING THAT

SINCE BULGARIANS ARE HAVING FILM FESTIVAL, WE SHOULD HAVE ONE THERE. BELIEVE GOOD CASE CAN BE MADE FOR HOLDING FESTIVAL ON OTHER GROUNDS, IE. THAT BY ALLOWING SPECIAL

SHOWING, GOB WOULD GIVE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF ITS OFT STATED DESIRE TO IMPROVE CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH US. WHEN BULGARIANS COUNTER THAT THERE IS NO CULTURAL AGREEMENT, EMBASSY COULD POINT OUT THAT BULGARIAN FILMS ARE

NONE THE LESS SHOWN IN US.

4. DEPARTMENT LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF BULGARIAN ART EXHIBIT HERE. WILL ADVISE FURTHER ON THIS POINT.

5. DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE PRACTICE OF INFORMING EMBASSY OF POSSIBLE CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS TOURING EE, BOTH CU SPONSORED AND ARTISTS HANDLED ON COMMERCIAL BASIS, DESPITE FACT THAT GOB RECENTLY TURNED DOWN ALWIN AILEY AND ST PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. IF BULGARIANS INTERESTED IN HAVING THEIR ARTISTS PERFORM HERE, THEY SHOULD BEGIN CULTIVATING US IMPRESARIOS AND CONCERT AGENCIES SINCE SUCH DIRECT CONTACTS USUALLY MORE EFFICACIOUS THAN GOVERNMENT CHANNELS. DEPARTMENT FORWARDING TO CAO LIST OF US IMPRESARIOS WHO HAVE HANDLED EE GROUPS IN PAST BUT IS UNABLE TO RECOMMEND OR IN ANY WAY STAND AS GUARANTOR FOR ACTIVITIES OF THESE PERSONS OR ORGANIZATIONS. SISCO

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